

Remarks:

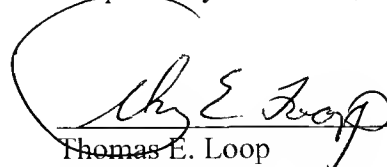
Reconsideration of this application in view of the above-identified amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested. Claim 41 is pending and has been currently amended. Claims 1-40 have been cancelled. For purposes of clarity, Applicant addresses the Examiner's concerns in the order set forth in the previous Office Action.

As an initial matter, Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for pointing out that independent claims 1, 8, 16, 17, 26, and 38-40 are all product-by-process claims, and that according to the U.S. Patent Office's guidelines (MPEP § 2113) process limitations recited in a product claim are given little to no patentable weight. In presenting these claims, Applicant had relied on the advice and counsel of its previous patent attorney (and was consequently unaware that these claims would be received so unfavorable).

Applicant further notes that restriction under 35 USC §§ 121 and 372 is required. In view of this restriction requirement, Applicant hereby elects to pursue the single invention of Group II, claim 41, drawn to a container. Applicant, however, has amended claim 41 for purposes of enhanced clarity.

In view of the above remarks and claim amendment allowance of claim 41 is earnestly solicited. A good faith effort has been made to place this application in condition for allowance. If any further matter requires attention prior to allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at (206) 568-3100 to resolve the same.

Respectfully submitted,



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